THE FARMERS' CABINET,

AND

AMERICAN HERD-BOOK.

DEVOTED TO

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, AND RURAL AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

Perfect Agriculture is the true foundation of all trade and industry.—Liebig.

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For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Prospects in Eastern Virginia for new Settlers.

To the Editor,—If we examine a map of the United States, we shall find that Virginia occupies a position the most favoured by nature of any of her sister republics. In her southern counties, cotton, the fig, and other plants belonging to the warmest climates, flourish—the fig standing the winter without any protection. In all the southern and eastern counties, sheep and cattle live out all winter, and really need but little shelter or fodder. In the central mountain region, and the northern and western parts of the State, the climate approaches that of southern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

There is likewise a great variety of soil suited to the growth of every production of the temperate regions of the earth; while in many of the eastern counties the richest marls are abundant and of easy access, to sustain and increase the fertility of the land. Both climate and soil seem better adapted to the growth and perfection of all the finer fruits, than any other portion of the United States; and I believe the time is not distant when this region will supply all the northern cities with fruits and vegetables in great abundance and perfection.

The Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James rivers, penetrate the eastern counties, and with their branches furnish the means for transportation, not only to the northern States, but to all the world besides. Steamboats leave Norfolk in the extreme southeast part of the State late in the evening, and arrive in Baltimore before sunrise the next morning; so that a farmer or horticulturist in the vicinity of Norfolk, can attend the Baltimore or Washington markets as easily, and have his fruits and vegetables, or meats and poultry there, just as fresh as one within a mile of those cities. The run from Norfolk to Philadelphia, or New York, with a good steamer, would occupy but a few hours; and as soon as there is business made for the boats, they will be there ready. During the last year a single individual received $5000 for cucumbers alone,* which he raised near Norfolk, and sold to supply

* Three years ago, a friend of the editor's, who went from New Jersey to the neighbourhood of Portsmouth, Va., told him he had paid the summer before, the sum of $1200 freight on vegetables, sent to the Philadelphia market.—Ed.

the New York market; and the quantity of green peas, tomatoes, potatoes, green corn, &c., sent from that region, is surprising to many—during the present year large quantities of peaches will also be sent. This business is only in its very infancy in Virginia, and is, as yet, confined to the neighbourhood of Norfolk and Portsmouth, where much of the soil is admirably adapted to these productions.

On the upper part of James river, say half way from Old Point Comfort to Richmond, the banks become high, the country is free from marshes and swamps, and situations are abundant where there is no danger to health to be apprehended. The same remarks apply to the peninsulas between the James and the York rivers, the York and the Rappahannock, and between the latter and the Potomac.

In answer to my inquiries respecting the health, &c., of these peninsulas, a highly respectable physician says, "our climate is delightful, our summers tempered by the sea breeze, which is as regular as the trade winds, are much less oppressive than at the north; and our winters are short, and so mild, that many farmers do not house their stock, or feed them at all.

"Our bills of mortality will compare favourably with those of any other part of the Union below the mountain range. We have no epidemics, no consumption, rarely pleurisy or rheumatism. It is notorious, that before the Revolution, when this was really a garden spot, persons from the upper country came here annually in the summer for health."

The same intelligent writer says, "It must be pleasing to a Virginian to see the attention of respectable and enlightened strangers directed to the valuable but neglected lands of the State. That the importance of her soil and locality are becoming daily more and more appreciated, admits of no doubt. Already a considerable emigration from the north has been directed towards us; and in Fairfax county lands which were thrown out as valueless, have been so improved by the judicious management of their new proprietors, as to rival in production our best farms; producing from ten to fifteen bushels of wheat, and thirty and forty of corn.

"If this can be effected in what has always been considered almost the poorest part of our State, what might not be expected from a district of country, which as you justly say, has been, and may again be made the garden spot of the United States.

"In this region shell marl abounds, and is used with the most decided benefit. I know of farms in the vicinity of Williamsburg, which ten years ago, would not produce ten bushels of corn to the acre, now producing thirty, from no other assistance than marl.

"We have no scarcity of excellent water, and our soil is based upon clay. White clover is indigenous, and with the slightest assistance from lime and animal manures, red clover grows most luxuriantly. I have raised as fine as I ever saw in Pennsylvania."

A letter from Westmoreland county says, "from four to six thousand acres can be had in the same neighbourhood, where it is healthy and convenient to the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers; the unimproved land, from $3 to $4, and that which is improved, from $5 to $10 per acre."

Another describes a "farm of 300 acres, with a new comfortable dwelling, on the main road—price $6 per acre."

Other letters describe lands in almost any quantity, in this region, at prices varying from $1 to $5 or $6 per acre. It may be asked how it can be, that in a country so blessed by nature, with the most genial climate, watered by a profusion of rivers and streams, which abound with the finest fish and oysters; and with a soil which, wherever it is properly used, produces equal to any other—has become so poor as to be abandoned, and thrown out, as waste and valueless?

Intelligent Virginians can easily give a satisfactory answer to such questions; and they are becoming awake throughout the State, to the necessity of applying the only remedy to redeem their beautiful country, and restore their noble "old dominion" to her proper and rightful rank in the great confederacy, of which she was once at the head.*

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* The great drawback upon Virginia's prosperity—the incubus that lies with deadly pressure upon her thrift, is the institution of slavery. We are not going to discuss this point, either in its moral or political aspect: the Farmers' Cabinet is not the place for it, were we so disposed. We lay it down, however, as a dogma as incontrovertible as her own mountains are immovable, that Virginia can never attain the degree of prosperity and the position in our confederacy which nature seems to have intended for her, until labour shall become honourable to the white man, and she shall recognize heartily and in good earnest, the important proposition that no idle white population can flourish. Our very heart yearns for the regeneration of Virginia. Great as her star unquestionably is among the greatest of the Union, she finds others by unprecedented strides passing her, and usurping the place she of right should occupy. And why, but because she paralizes her strength and impedes her progress by clinging to—or perhaps we should rather say, by not shaking off—that

The agriculturists have from the beginning pursued a course which would inevitably impoverish any country upon the earth; they have cropped the soil incessantly, without even permitting it to rest a single season, with tobacco, wheat, and corn, as long as it would produce enough to pay the labour of tillage, without returning to it the least particle of manure of any kind. And when by this murderous system they have got all they could, they have abandoned their old fields and cleared off the adjacent forests, subjecting its soil to the same process, until most of the surface of the eastern part of the State has been robbed of its fertility; and where the palaces of the statesmen of the Revolution stood, surrounded by all the beauties of the most luxuriant vegetation, nothing but a wilderness now appears, and the *wild deer* and *wild turkies* have returned in abundance, and enjoy a more uninterrupted freedom than they can find in the wilds of the "far West."

One of my correspondents, a resident and a native of the Southern part of the State, says, "Nature has done every thing for it, while it has been the work of man to mutilate and destroy. Whenever it shall arise, as it were, from the dust, ... it will be one of the most delightful countries in the world. Wherever the spirit of improvement has been manifested, its salubrity has been found to be equal to that of any other portion of the State. Our large farmers do not, in most instances, make one per cent. profit on their estates; indeed they become involved deeper and deeper in debt every year; and from time to time have to sell off the increase of their slaves,—if not worse—in order to keep up. But it is hard to change old habits. There is a great want of every thing like energy and good management in our population at large. Now and then we meet with a prosperous farmer, but they constitute exceptions to a general rule.

Another writer, who offers a large tract of land with a good mill seat upon it, in Westmoreland,—the county which gave birth to Washington—for $5 per acre, says, "Should you come to Virginia, you must expect to see every thing in the farming way as far down the hill as it can be; but I hope there is a better day ahead. You will find warm-hearted and kind-hearted people; and people who obey the laws, and never interfere with other people's business; and, by the by, not much with their own."

I will make another short extract from a very recent letter, which answers the question thoroughly. "Nature has done every thing to fit this country for the abode of man, but man, by a course of conduct in opposition to the Divine harmony, has marred the works of his Maker. Our political empirics have prescribed various remedies, but few have been bold enough yet to prescribe the only one that can prove effectual. There is one black spot which must be wiped away, before our regeneration can take place. When two of the tribes of Israel wished to settle on the east bank of Jordan, they were told that if their motives were bad, *their sin would find them out.* Thus it must be in all ages of the world."

Intelligent freemen, who are willing and not ashamed to earn their bread by the sweat of their own brows, could soon make these desert places fruitful as a garden; and I feel anxious that my northern brethren, who think of changing their homes, should look at the advantages of this favoured country, before they go to the far West, and fare worse.

In a future number I will describe some fine estates in the upper country, which possess distinguished advantages, and are offered at very low prices.

Persons desirous of going to Virginia to see the country, may obtain any information in the possession of the writer, either personally, or by letter, *post paid*, directed to Moorestown, Burlington county, N. J.

S. S. Griscom.

Moorestown, N. J., Sixth mo, 1846.

To take lamp-oil from carpets or wearing apparel, make a paste of rye flour, of the consistency of a rather stiff batter, and apply it to the place; when dry, it will rub off, and take the grease with it. A second application may be necessary in some cases, but not often.

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which in its very nature, is worse than lead upon her pinions. We speak only of expediency—we have reference only to dollars and cents, and to that widely extended prosperity and influence which are built up and sustained by their instrumentality. We leave the subject in all its moral bearings to herself—all we mean to ask at present is, that she would with a steady step and an eye fixed upon the goal ahead, consult her true and abiding interests, and take measures which in less than twenty years must double—aye treble the value of her real estate, and give such an impetus to her population, that when she shall cast her eye over the census of 1860, she will be ready to doubt the possibility of its correctness.

We have many subscribers in Virginia; and modest as we would fain appear in these matters, the editor has reason to flatter himself in the belief, that his unassuming paper has not been without an influence that shall be permanently beneficial to that portion of our Union. It shall be his aim never to allow this influence to be any other than promotive of Virginia's truest interests.—E.

The Alpaca.

The late effort of the Agricultural Association in this city to secure the object proposed by Mr. Amory Edwards, who has been five years Consul in Peru, to introduce this beautiful animal in our country, promises to be successful.

Several thousand dollars have been subscribed for this purpose, and Mr. Edwards has offered his services to go down to Peru and Bolivia and select a flock of about three hundred, and bring them to the United States, as soon as the required amount can be obtained.

In England, the experiment has, it appears, proved quite successful. The female in that climate having matured two years earlier, and produced a finer fleece than in its own native districts; the length of staple was also improved, and the fleece increased in a remarkable degree. They are hardy, docile, affected neither by intense cold nor heat. The clip in Peru weighs nine pounds, while that in England is said to weigh seventeen and a half, which is suited to the finest class of goods, and calculated to compete with silk. The flesh is fine, savoury, easily digested, and recommended in Peru, by physicians to invalids, in preference to fowls. The fleece of one alpaca is equal to six merino sheep. The following notice of the alpaca, from the Baltimore American, gives a very graphic description of its nature and habits, and may impart a little additional information to our agricultural friends.

"The alpaca inhabits the slopes, table lands, and mountains of Peru, Bolivia, and Chili, enduring all the vicissitudes of the climate. They are found twelve thousand feet above the level of the sea, where they derive a subsistence from the moss, &c., growing upon the rocks, exposed to all the rigors of the elements, and receiving neither food nor care from the hand of man. The shepherd only visits them occasionally; yet such are their gregarious habits, that they seldom stray away and mix with another flock, being kept in discipline by the older ones who know their grounds, and become attached to the place of their nativity, to which they return at night, evincing an astonishing vigilance and sagacity in keeping the young ones together, and free from harm. In the formation of their stomach they resemble the camel, and can undergo extreme hunger and thirst. These are, however, the secondary qualities of the animal, though stated first. It is for its wool that the alpaca is particularly desirable, and entitled to be regarded, should the proposed experiments succeed, as offording a new and valuable staple of commerce. In this point of view the suggestion becomes one of considerable importance, as it is thought that the alpaca will be found a suitable stock for all our western and northern States, where waste and unprofitable pastures would suffice them, and they would browse on wild grasses and herbage that sheep and cattle reject."—*Farmer & Mechanic.*

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Raising Poor Land.

Mr. Editor,—I have been a regular subscriber and reader of your paper since 1840; and must now say, that if I have been a little more successful than some of my neighbours, it is owing to the very many valuable hints derived from the pages of the Cabinet and other agricultural papers to which I am a subscriber: therefore let me say to young farmers, subscribe at once to some, or all the agricultural papers in your reach; you will be well repaid.

On the 1st of January, 1840, I commenced farming on 200 acres of poor sandy land, for which I gave on a credit, $1,120 at public sale, which was considered high. The cleared land had been allowed to grow up with bushes and briars, and the farm had never been ditched, and had been cultivated by a good farmer as tenant, from year to year, in two fields. I laid it off in three fields at first, but have it now in four. There are 125 acres of cleared land, 20 of which are branch meadow, which I have got in pretty good order. Five acres are laid off to the house, out-buildings, feed and stack-yards, garden, lawn, &c., &c.; which leaves me 25 acres to each field. In 1839, one half of the farm, or two fields, raised 380 bushels of shelled corn, small grain in proportion, and no hay. In 1840, one third raised me but 320 bushels of corn; and 17 of wheat, and 135 of oats, upon the half tilled in 1839. I have given you what was raised the year before I took it, and what I raised the next year. I was of course not able to do much for my corn-field, and nothing for the field of small grain.

I will now state what I made last year, 1845, on 25 acres, or one field, in corn, and the same quantity in small grain. I do not report the result to show what large crops I produced, but merely to show the difference between what the farm would make when I took it, and what it will make at this time. In 1845 I raised on 25 acres, 660 bushels of corn, three cart-loads of pumpkins, 200 bushels of Irish potatoes, 75 bushels of sweet

potatoes, and two bushels of field peas and beans.

Value of corn,	$462 00
Pumpkins,	6 00
Irish potatoes,	150 00
Sweet potatoes,	46 87½
Peas,	2 50
On 25 acres, in 1845, I made 70 bushels wheat, at $70—600 bushels oats, $200,	270 00
On ten acres of meadow I had 11 tons of hay; the rest being grazed, worth on the farm,	88 00
	$1025 37½

I say nothing of what is grown in the garden; the advantages of grazing; increase of stock, &c., &c., including pork raised, vegetables, orchard, &c., which I estimate to be equal in value to the cost of raising the grain, hay, &c., &c.

Now let us see what the produce for 1839 was worth, or would have been worth, if the same quantity of land had been tilled that I tilled in 1845. Assuming that they raised the same average of wheat and oats to the bushel of corn that I raised, it will be found that they raised 190 bushels of corn,

worth,	$133 00
21 bushels wheat,	21 00
180 bushels oats,	60 00
	$214 00

Thus you see that as $214 are to $1025 37½ so is the difference since I took it; or it has increased to nearly five times its former value in cropping alone. I have no doubt that at least one dozen of your readers are ready to say that "this is all likely enough; we know that poor land under bad management, can be made to increase at fully this rate with good management and a larger outlay in labour, lime, manure, &c." But let me tell you, gentle reader, that it has been done without any outlay for either lime or other manure, or very little additional labour, except what most men think barely sufficient to cultivate the land and save the crops with. I keep two men and a boy, whose average wages and clothes amount to $175. I keep two mules and two horses; the boy and one man cultivate the crops, except at busy times; the other man keeps the cart running, making and getting out manure; at leisure times the others are either ditching in the fields or cutting wood, rails and poles in the branch, taking everything before them there. By clearing so much meadow, which once burnt over will want sprouting but once, the grass blade will keep the balance down after that.

My neighbours say my stock is much too large for the farm, but I am a head-strong child, and will have my own way; so I keep two horses, two mules, one colt, and thirty head of cattle, besides calves; all of which are well sheltered in winter, in stabling that I have built for that purpose—for I have been burnt out once since I have been on the farm. My plan is to lose nothing that will make the weeds grow about the house, such as suds, brine, droppings of the poultry-house, pigs, ashes, &c., all of which is taken care of as follows. I keep a *flat* pile of dirt hauled at a proper distance from the kitchen, upon which all such things are put. This pile is top-dressed with dirt as often as I think it will bear it. I forgot to mention that all weeds, the mowing of the lawn, garden-walks, yards, &c., are all put there, and a little dirt thrown over it as soon as it withers a little. My feed yard has a regular slope from the stables to the back part, at a regular fall of three and a half feet in the whole distance. On the lower side I keep dirt hauled in to soak up the strength of the liquid manures that would otherwise escape. My rule is to haul out the farm-yard or stable manure and spread it regularly over the feed yard, and then haul dirt and spread over it, and so on through the summer. My cows as soon as the grass is sufficient, are turned upon the commons, and penned every night in the field upon dirt, leaves, rushes, &c., &c.; this pile I top dress with this kind of stuff about once in two weeks, until feed time, when they are taken into the field that is to go in corn the next spring twelve months, and a pen made, and there I feed away the corn-stalks; while they are a little green they eat them cleaner than they will later, and as soon as they get them sufficiently thick under foot, I top dress with dirt, and so keep on till the stalks are all fed away. Then I take the cattle to the stable, where they have plenty of good dry bedding all the balance of the winter; these stables are kept cleansed precisely as the horse stables are. In this way I raise a good deal of good stuff. My hogs are never allowed to run in the field, but are kept in the woods. When I take them in to fatten, I supply them with materials, and they manufacture me a great deal of manure: I let nothing escape. All of my manures are put on spring crops.

I should have added, the only reason why I did not use lime and plaster in my compost piles, is because I was in debt when I commenced, and had all the farm buildings burnt down after I had put them up. This kept me in debt to enable me to rebuild, and I am still in debt; but I make the farm pay all expenses of cultivation and ordinary im-

provements and repairs, and reduce the debt annually, for I have no other means of importance but the farm.

A Constant Reader.

Easton, Md., June 9th, 1846.

Communicated for the Farmers' Cabinet.

Culture of the Peach Tree.

The following extracts are made from a letter from Dr. Thomson, of Wilmington, Del., dated the 26th of Third month last, addressed to the Southern Planter. The subject is important to peach growers, as well as to the lovers of this delicious fruit. The Dr. says in a part of his letter not copied, that the reports in circulation of the enormous profits of this business, have been greatly exaggerated: th's indeed is readily believed, by all who are in the least familiar with operations of the kind. They should be discouraged and rectified, as they are calculated to mislead and disappoint the public.—Ed.

To Mr. Isaac Reeves, a native of New Jersey, is the whole credit due of first introducing on a large scale the culture of the inoculated peach tree into Delaware. The late Mr. Jacob Ridgway, of Philadelphia, owning a farm near Delaware City, on the Chesapeake and Delaware canal, was induced by Mr. Reeves to become his partner, and upon this property, in the spring of 1832, they set out the first twenty acres of inoculated peach trees ever planted in this State, with the view of supplying the Philadelphia market. They rapidly extended their plantation to about one hundred and twenty acres, were eminently successful, and one year—the *very best* season they ever had—their gross income from the sales of fruit was some sixteen thousand dollars. Peaches then commanded from one dollar twenty-five cents to three dollars per basket, containing about three pecks. In the spring of 1836, the late Mr. Manuel Eyre and myself followed suit upon our "Union Farm," midway between Wilmington and Newcastle on the Delaware river, to about the extent of one hundred and forty acres. In a year or two afterwards, Mr. Philip Reybold & Sons went into the business—then a host of others, until now, from twenty-five hundred to three thousand acres of land, in Newcastle county, are planted with, and successfully cultivated in peaches, making Delaware, though the smallest of the States, the largest producer of this fruit. The result has been a proportionate diminution of price, the average, per basket, one season with another, not exceeding from thirty to sixty cents. In this way Delaware has become the principal supplier of the Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and North river markets, and many of our fine peaches now reach even Boston. The whole annual income from this branch of business to the farmers of this county may be estimated from one to two hundred thousand dollars. For so handsome an additional product the agriculturists of Delaware, as well as the consumers of peaches in our vicinity, owe a debt of gratitude to the *originator* of the culture, whom as one, I should gladly unite in presenting with some valued and lasting memento in recognition of his merit for giving a *new staple to a State;* for who is a greater benefactor to mankind and the age he lives in, than he who brings into operation a new branch of business, giving by his enterprise and perseverance an impetus to agriculture; causing the earth to give forth its increase, and so multiplies its fruits as to bring them within the reach and enjoyment of all? The great improvement made in peaches within the last few years in New Jersey and Delaware, consists in propagating none but the finest kinds, by *budding and grafting*, so as to have the fruit *as early* and *as late* as our latitude will admit; the earliest ripening with us from the first week in August, such as Troth's Early, Early York and Early Ann, and ending in the latter part of October with Ward's Late Free, the Heath, Algiers' Winter, &c. I need not enumerate all the different varieties used and planted out to keep up this succession—some of the principal are in the order of enumeration, Troth's Early, Early York, Early Ann, Yellow Rareripe, Red Rareripe, Malacatoon, Morris' White, Old Mixon, Rodman, Ward's Late Free, Malden, Free Smock, Late Rareripe, Heath, Algiers' Winter, &c. These trees are generally obtained for about six dollars per hundred, from approved nurserymen in Delaware and New Jersey, and the rearing of them constitutes a distinct business of itself. They are produced by planting out the peach stones, or pits, in the spring, which have been slightly covered with earth in the fall, so as to be exposed to the action of the winter's frost. The sooner the pits are put in the sand or earth after the fruit is matured, the better—they should never become dry. The shoots from these stones are budded in August of the same year, from four to six inches from the ground. The ensuing spring all the first year's growth is cut off above where the scion has taken—not, however, until it is well developed—when, in the fall and following spring they are ready for transplanting or sale. The mode of preparing the ground for them is precisely that with us of the Indian corn crop—the earth is well

ploughed, and from thirty to forty bushels of lime are spread upon it to the acre. The trees of like kinds, for the convenience of picking, are then set out in rows at distances varying from twenty to thirty feet apart, according to the strength of the soil; a crop of corn is then put in and cultivated in the usual way, and this is done successively for *three years;* by this time the trees begin to bear. The cultivation of the corn being the proper tillage for the trees, and this crop amply paying for all investment in trees, &c. After the trees commence bearing, no other crop of any kind should ever be grown among them, as I have known two rows of potatoes between a row of peach trees not only to affect the fruit, but seriously injure the trees; but they should be regularly ploughed some three or four times in the season, just as if the corn crop was continued. So obnoxious in our country is the peach tree to the worm, or borer—the *ægeria exitiosa*—that each tree in the orchard should be examined twice a year, summer and fall—say in June and October—by removing the earth down to the roots, and killing with a pruning-knife every intruder—then scraping the injured bark and removing the glue. Thus exposed, they should be left for a few days, when the earth should again be replaced with a hoe. The limbs should be only moderately pruned or thinned out, so as to admit the sun and air, avoiding in the operation leaving *forks*, which incline them to split when burthened with fruit. When the peaches ripen, they should be carefully picked from step-ladders, seven to eight feet high, into small hand-baskets, holding one peck each. Our operators for this purpose are both men and women, who earn from fifty to seventy-five cents a day, besides being *found.* These baskets are gently emptied into the regular market baskets, which are all marked with the owner's name and strewed along the whole line of orchard to be picked. As these are filled they are put into spring wagons, holding from thirty to sixty baskets, and taken to the wharf, or landing, where there is a house, shed or awning, for the purpose of *assorting them*, each kind by itself, which is into prime and cullings—the prime being distinguished not only by their size and selection, but also by a handful of peach leaves scattered through the top. They are then put on board the boats in tiers, separated by boards between, to keep them from injury, and so reach their destined market. We consider a water communication from the orchards, or as near as may be, most essential, as all land carriage more or less bruises or destroys the fruit. Our roads through the orchards and to the landings are all kept ploughed and harrowed down smooth and even. The baskets for marketing the peaches are generally obtained in New Jersey at twenty-five to thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents per hundred. With trifling modifications our culture and practice may be made to suit not only the Southern but the South-Western States. I may here, perhaps, properly remark, that the average life of our trees is from nine to twelve years, when properly cared for and protected as I have described; that the two great and devastating enemies the trees have to contend against are the *peach worm* and the *yellows;* the first readily yielding to the *knife* and the treatment of semi-annual examination; the latter being a *constitutional, consumptive*, or *marasmatic disease*, for which no other remedy is as yet known or to be practiced but *extirpation and destruction.* There are *many theories* and *some practice* recorded on this, by far the most destructive enemy of the peach tree. I may hereafter give my own views on this particular and obscure disease. I concur, however, with Mr. Downing, of Newburg, that the great and prevailing disposition of the peach tree in our climate is to over-production of fruit in favourable seasons. Our remedy for this is carefully to thin it off by plucking all those that touch, or are within two or three inches of each other, when the size of hickory nuts, which are thrown into some running stream or into the hog-pens to be devoured. This mode "of heading in," or pruning one half of the producing buds, is new to me, but which I have just tried upon my garden trees in the city, and will be able to speak of *experimentally*, hereafter. With us in Delaware, as everywhere else, the peach tree *succeeds best* in a *good soil.* That preferred is a rich sandy loam, with clay. Many of my finest trees and choicest fruits are grown in a loose and stony soil. The trees should never be set out in wet, low, or springy situations, and for the same reasons, high and rolling ground should be selected for your plantations, and for the additional circumstance that they are less obnoxious to early frosts.

I may further remark, for the benefit of those desirous to pay some attention to the cultivation of peaches—and *who should not be?*—that considerable additions of new and valuable varieties, *native* as well as *foreign*, are annually being made to those already known among us—many of them very fine. I have now several hundred raised from pits, imported for me by N. Frazier, Esq., Buenos Ayrean Consul, of Philadelphia, and long a

resident merchant in that city, many of which will bear this year and next. To Mr. Sayres, of Sparta, Georgia, I am also indebted for a full sample of the native Georgia varieties, as well as to some other gentlemen in different States—all of which I mean to test and bring into notice, if of sufficient value. Whilst in the vicinity of Richmond, Norfolk, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Winchester, and other large towns of Virginia, the peach tree may be cultivated with profit for the market, and all over the State for the purpose of drying, every farmer and owner of a lot may raise them in abundance for his own use. But I am persuaded that the best fruit crop that Virginia farmers could raise is the *apple—the pippin apple*, with perhaps some other of the finest fall and winter varieties; they will bear transportation—always command a good price, and be saleable in our middle States and Northern markets, and find a ready sale in London and Liverpool. The very best and fairest I have seen for years was during the past winter, the growth of Clarke and Jefferson counties, Virginia. But I am digressing from the object of this letter, in going from the *peach* to the *apple*, yet I am induced, like Mr. Lawrence in his late valuable letters to Mr. Rives, in saying *what Virginia may be*, to stir her up and "provoke her to good works," if she would take into serious consideration all the advantages of her location, climate, and natural resources. For her extent of territory, mineral wealth and productive capacities, she is unequalled by any of the old or new States, in her ability to accumulate riches and support a population worthy of her ancient fame. But here I must curb my thoughts and repress the feelings and expressions that seek vent in addressing her sons on a specific subject. Two weeks spent in Eastern and two in Western Virginia within the past year, would prompt one of her *native sons* in another State, and under other influences, to say to her *more*, if not *half as well*, as Mr. Lawrence has recently said of what *she is*—of what *she is capable*, and what *she ought to be*. But he must refrain, whenever *she* shall inquire and seek to apply the proper remedy to the disease and answer the interrogatory, why her population is so sparse?—why her mines, her water powers, and her agricultural abilities are not fully developed and made profitable?—he may be inclined to give an opinion for what it is worth.

Ah ha! said the farmer to his corn.
Oh hoe! said the corn to the farmer.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Diseases of Grape Vines.

Mr. Editor,—For your April Number I wrote a short article on the "Blight or Mildew of Grape Vines:"—perhaps more extended remarks would be acceptable.

Most of your readers are aware that *cream of tartar* is contained in the sediment of wine. It is found on the sides and bottoms of wine casks after the wine has been withdrawn, and is composed of tartaric acid and potassa. Potassa is the base of potash. This will serve to show the importance of using potash in the culture of the grape. All the tart grapes contain much of potash in the cream of tartar.

For the woody part of the grape vine, some lime is necessary; but the alkali which the grape vine most uses is potash. This potash must be in proportion to the quantity of carbonic acid, &c. furnished and used by the plant—if there is much carbonic acid, ammonia, &c., absorbed by the plant, a greater quantity of potash is necessary; and if the supply of carbonic acid, &c. be small, a less quantity of potash is needed. As it is difficult to measure the quantity of carbonic acid, &c. absorbed by the large leaves of the grape vine, so it is difficult to measure the quantity of alkali needed:—and there are other circumstances in the way of determining the quantity to be supplied. Consequently I could not tell how much alkali would be needed by a plant, even if I were to see it and know the circumstances under which it grows.

The best guide I have found to determine when a plant needs alkali, is to watch it, and if it grows rapidly and healthy, it is doing well enough; but if the leaves show a light blue mildew, or the fruit becomes withered, or is eaten by insects, I immediately apply the alkalies in small quantities every few days, until I see a healthy appearance.

It must be recollected the *alkalies*—lime and potash—are the elements needed. They are found in many substances—lime in limestone, plaster, marl, ashes, &c., and potash in silicate of potash, ashes, nitrate of potash, poudrette, guano, soap-boilers' salt ley, common ley, soap-suds, &c. The ashes of oak, hickory, and other hard woods, contain more potash and lime than the ashes of poplar and the other soft woods, or the ashes of anthracite and bituminous coal. Much of the potash is extracted from ashes by the leaching process; therefore leached ashes are not so good for agricultural and horticultural purposes as unleached ashes—though even unleached ashes will well repay the trouble

and expense of their application. If a grape vine grows in a paved yard, where ashes cannot be dug in, nor scattered over the surface, the application of soap-suds would be particularly desirable. If the vine roots extend much, the soap-suds might be applied in different parts of the yard, where the pavement is not, and where it is supposed the roots of the vine are. The soap-suds might be thrown on the ground as fast as it can absorb it, and this application may be made every week, until the mould has left the vines, and the grapes quit falling or shrivelling. If the vines be very young, or it is desirable, in consequence of the leaves being very much moulded, to apply the soap suds directly to the leaves, instead of the roots—the operation should not be performed while the sun is shining, unless it be early in the morning.

Wood or coal ashes slightly dug in, are a much more safe application than strong ley, nitrate of potash, guano, poudrette, &c.—they are not so liable to kill the vine when used to excess. CHEMICO.

Wilkesbarre, June 27th, 1846.

From the American Farmer.

Proper time for Cutting Timber.

THE communication of R. S. Livingston to the "American Agricultural Association," and the conversation growing out of it on the subject of "the proper season for felling timber," as published in the May No. of the American Farmer, induces me to say a word in relation to this matter, which may prove beneficial to some, and induce persons having time and means, to make experiments on the subject.

Some years ago, in clearing a piece of land, I was induced to cut the hickory out first. It suited me to have it done between the first of June and some time in August. The whole of it was cut for fire-wood—part of this laid over the following summer, and when used in the winter for fuel, was found *entirely clear of worm holes, and as sound and solid* as the most durable of our kinds of timber.

It has been repeated by me three several times, and always with the same result. In one instance, a few hickories could not be cut until their neighbours, the oaks, were removed, which could not be cut until the winter—the winter came; they were cut, and the following summer they were literally riddled by the worm, while those cut within the time designated above, were as solid as metal.

These are the facts in the case, but how to account for them, I was at a loss until the publication of Liebig's work on Agricultural Chemistry. He says, "after August the leaves form no more wood—all the carbonic acid which the plants now absorb, is employed for the production of nutritive matter for the following years: instead of woody fibre, starch is formed and is diffused through every part of the plant by the autumnal sap." I at once saw why no worms existed—because there was no nourishment in the wood for them to subsist on.

Some few persons in this vicinity prefer cutting oak timber for rails in August, while others prefer February. The difference in the times of cutting oak is not so great as in hickory, as the former is not so liable to be injured by worms. A question here presents itself, however, whether it is not better to fell all timber at a season when it is devoid of all *nutritive and fermentable matter?* And whether oak, as rails, or any uses exposed to the weather, would not be doubly durable? May not the dry-rot, from which the shipping interest has suffered so much, have its origin in a want of attention to this matter?

Governments have instituted experiments purposely to find a preventive after the timber has been cut; but as far as my knowledge extends, very little attention has been given to the proper season for *felling* it.

I would here suggest, that in all probability the precise time might be the two last weeks in July, and two first in August.

Any of your readers may have an opportunity of trying experiments through the course of the present season, and thereby render a benefit to several great interests. Let us try to "do a little good."

DANIEL ZOLLICKOFFER.

Lauderdale, May 16th, 1846.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

To Butter Makers.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—As the season of butter manufacture progresses, it may not be amiss to hint to your numerous subscribers engaged in the same, to be careful and not salt their butter too much—keep it in new white-oak firkins of 50 and 100 lbs.—proportioned to the number of cows—which are perfectly air-tight. One half-inch salt at top and bottom, without brine, unless to soak the firkin, is all sufficient; keep it in a cool cellar until frost comes, and then forward it to market. It is atmospheric air which ruins butter, and if kept free from it in cool situations it will keep sweet for years.

A BUTTER DEALER.

Swedish Turnips raised on barren land with Artificial Manure.

We have not seen the English journal from which the following is taken—we copy from the *New England Farmer*, an excellent paper by the way, and always valuable. The editor has been much interested in the experiment detailed. It is a handsome illustration of the efficiency, in one case at least, of *book-farming*.—Ed.

The problem which I sought to solve was—*Can we, by supplying to the soil the constituents*—so far as known—*of a plant, cultivate that plant successfully on any land, however sterile?*

The portion of ground chosen for testing the principle here implied, consisted of five acres, and was selected because it appeared the most barren and unlikely in the neighbourhood. Scarcely any herbage whatever covered it. On the failure of the hay crop in 1844, a party of poor men from Shaftesbury, came to me soliciting employment. They were set to dig this piece of land, but the soil proved too thin and stubborn for the spade; they therefore, in their own phrase, "knocked it over" with the pickaxe. Twice in the season afterwards it was sown with rape, but the produce was nothing.

A soil of this constitution seemed a fair field for the experiment on a pretty large scale and in a popular way. I say in a *popular* way, because to satisfy the requirements of rigid science, a strict analysis both of the soil and manure would be asked for, before any inference would be permitted to be drawn from the result. Yet for practical purposes, it may seem enough to show that on land growing nothing, a large crop can be raised by adding ingredients which the chemist tells us are necessary for the fruitful cultivation of that crop.

Accordingly, in the latter part of April, 1845, I determined on seeing whether on this piece of land it were possible to produce a crop of Swedes weighing twenty tons to the acre.

To effect this object, chemical analysis, as given in Professor Johnstone's Lectures, acquaints us that there would be required for the bulbs and tops of such a product, inorganic matter weighing more than 500 lbs.; consisting of about 146 lbs. potash, 76 lbs. soda, 69 lbs. sulphuric acid, 30 lbs. phosphoric acid, 103 lbs. lime, 22 lbs. magnesia, 23 lbs. chlorine, 23 lbs. silica, as well as a certain portion of organic matters, in the form of ammonia and carbonic acid. It was expected that if these were sufficiently supplied to the plant in its early stages, the remainder of the carbonic acid and ammonia necessary to the perfection of the crop, would be furnished either—as Mulder affirms,—from the decaying matter in the soil, or from the ammonia brought down in the rains, according to Liebig.

The quantities of inorganic substances above enumerated, are not constant, but vary, as is well known, within certain limits, according to the soil: they must be considered only as an approximation to the quantities and proportions required.

Now as potash and soda may, to a great extent, replace each other, I calculated that 30 bushels of wood ashes would give those alkalies in sufficient measure. I made no provision for the alkaline earths, supposing that the chalk in the soil would yield lime enough. The sulphuric and phosphoric acids would be found amply in the two cwt. of Ichaboe guano, 50 lbs. of burnt bones dissolved in sulphuric acid, in addition to the sulphates and phosphates contained in the wood ashes. The guano would also yield sufficient ammonia to the *young* Swede plant; whilst two loads of saw-dust, already in a rotten state, having been fermented by pigs' manure and salt, would give out a constant supply of carbonic acid, as well as conduce—according to Mulder—to the constant formation of ammonia in the soil. The great affinity of decaying sawdust for moisture, would prevent the effects of drought so formidable to turnips on our high chalk-lands. The opposite danger of excessive rains washing the manure away from the growing plants, was guarded against by pouring over the guano and ashes employed, 10 lbs. of sulphuric acid in a diluted form, thereby converting the highly soluble carbonates into the comparatively insoluble sulphates of ammonia and potash.

In order that every portion of the manure thus calculated, might, as far as possible, be duly apportioned to each plant, it was determined to bury both the seed and manure in holes at measured distances; but the looseness of the soil, filling up each hole as soon as made, defeated this expedient. The labourers were then instructed to begin at the highest point, and working downhill, to strike down with their hoes, small drills two feet apart. The manure having been previously hauled to the summit, a large wheelbarrow, loaded with a sufficient quantity for two drills, was wheeled down the interval between the two drills; and a handful of the contents placed at distances of one foot in each drill. Children followed, dropping upon each deposit of manure three fingers full of seed, mixed with fine soil, which served to prevent the manure from burning the seed. In descending the hill they trod on their work, and so buried both

the manure and seed together. This operation completed the process; the only subsequent cultivation consisted in the thinning of the plants by children.

The issue of this experiment has exceeded my most sanguine expectations. Forty perches of the best part of the crop, yielded of *clean* roots after the rate of 23¾ tons per acre, whilst 40 perches of the poorest gave 19 tons. On comparing the relative quantities of the heaviest and lightest produce, competent persons have estimated the crop at 21 tons per acre of clean roots. Some of these when topped and tailed, weighed 14 lbs.; many hundreds of them exceeded 10 lbs. in weight.

One remarkable circumstance presented itself to the observer. Between roots of eight and nine lbs. weight, would be seen every now and then a starvelling plant, with a bulb not bigger than a marble. This arose from the seed being carelessly dropped at a distance from its appointed food. But the accident served to prove beyond all doubt, the efficiency of the manure and the intrinsic poverty of the ground.

When I began this experiment, the men employed on it and every eye-witness who passed by, smiled incredulously at what appeared at the time an act of well-meant folly—but *now*, the success can no longer be denied, and the last refuge of scepticism betrays itself in the question so often put to me—"But what was the cost? You may buy gold too dear." Of course, this is a most important part of the subject, and I rejoice, for the sake of the labourer begging for work, and the nation begging for food, that I can answer the inquiry most satisfactorily. Thus stands the cost per acre:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
30 bushels wood ashes at 6*d.*	0	15	0
2 cwt. Ichaboe guano, at 7*s.* 6*d.*	0	15	0
50 lbs. burnt bones and 22 lbs. sulphuric acid,	0	7	0
30 bushels sawdust,		2	6
Labour account in hoeing, drill, dropping seed—the surface of the land being otherwise untouched,		19	6
10 lbs. sulphuric acid poured over ashes,		1	3
Rent, 5*s.*; rates, &c., 2*s.*		7	0
Seed, 5 lbs. per acre, 1*s.*		3	6
Hauling manure to the summit of the hill,		7	0
	£3	17	9

It will be observed that no charge is made for pulling the roots, because four or five tons per acre of green food, furnished by the leaves, and fed to a flock of ewes, must far outweigh that expense, and ought, by right, to add a considerable sum to the credit side of the account.

I have thus given every item of cost that can be laid against 21 tons of Swedes per acre. The precise value of this root is, I am aware, an undecided point. In this neighbourhood, I can sell them at the rate of £1 per ton; but experiments made last year, and others still in progress, lead me to value them at 9*d* per cwt., *at the very lowest*—or 15*s.* per ton, when employed in fatting sheep in sheds; and this exclusive of the value of the dung,—which estimate makes the above crop worth £15 15*s.* per acre, at a cost of £3 17*s.* 9*d.*, giving a return of more than 300 per cent. for the outlay.

I hope that it will not be thought an instance of too rapid a generalization, if I draw from this experiment the inference that, with a *skilful* employment of labour, reliance on the principles of chemistry, and adequate capital, there is no soil, however poor, but will abundantly repay the costs of cultivation.—*A. Huxtable, in Journal of Royal Agricultural Society.*

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

The Reybold Sheep-shearing.

Mr. Editor,—The undersigned, present by invitation at the shearing of the Reybold flock of Leicester sheep, in Delaware, on the 18th ult., report as follows:

The flock is in perfect health and fine condition, evincing great care and judgment in the management, and an improvement in fleece and carcass that, after fifteen years of unwearied diligence in the pursuit of that object, may be supposed to approximate to perfection of form and truth of character. Many of the yearling wethers, as well as the ewes, cut eight pounds of washed wool, and not a broken fleece in the whole flock; while a two-year old buck of the Reybold breed, cut eleven pounds and a half of washed wool, of superior quality and fineness.

The imported pure Leicester ewes are splendid specimens of that favourite breed, and cannot, perhaps, be excelled in any country; cutting fleeces of very carefully washed wool, seven and eight pounds each, of fine quality and snowy whiteness.

The imported bucks of the "New Oxfordshire bred," it would be difficult to describe in language that would do them justice. To say that nothing equal to them has ever

before been exhibited in this country, would be but faint praise; indeed they must be *seen* and *felt*, before they can be *understood*. They were shorn by old and experienced English shepherds, who declare they never sheared or saw their equals in England, *by a long shot*. By the most careful examination and admeasurement before shearing, they were found to exhibit the following enormous proportions:

No. 1. Three feet across the back; five feet from nose to rump; seven feet four and a half inches in circumference—live weight 320 lbs.

No. 2. Two feet and two inches across the back; five feet two inches from nose to rump; seven feet in circumference.

The fleece of No. 1, weighed 13 lbs. of carefully washed wool, white, and of silky texture. No. 2, cut a fleece of well washed wool, weighing 17 lbs., measuring nearly one foot in length of staple, of superior quality, and which, if it had been left unwashed, would have exhibited a fleece weighing more than 22 lbs. After shearing, No. 1 was found to measure five feet six inches in circumference behind the shoulders, but it would be vain to attempt to convey an idea of the enormous depth and width of carcass, or the manner in which the fat is laid on upon the breast, sides, rump and back. Suffice to say, in the estimation of judges present, the carcass would cut from six to seven inches thick of fat on the rib, if the sheep were slaughtered at the present time.

The lambs, a cross with these bucks on the largest of the Reybold ewes, exhibit a remarkable consanguinity of form and character to their sires, and will, no doubt, rival them in the hands of their careful and judicious owner, who will leave nothing undone that can be made subservient to his purpose, namely; the creation of a flock of sheep that shall equal those of any other quarter of the globe, for wool and carcass combined. We were happy to find that inquiries and orders for bucks are being made of the enterprising owner of this magnificent flock for distant plantations; may success attend him in his patriotic undertaking.

Mr. Clayton Reybold succeeds his father in the ownership of the Reybold flock; his address is, Delaware City, Delaware.

I. W. Thomson, M. D.
Isaac Reeves,
James Pedder.

Delaware, June 4th, 1846.

We understand that J. A. Woodside is engaged to paint portraits of the "New Oxfordshire Bucks" before shearing, of which we hope to obtain an engraving for publication in our pages.—Ed.

Remarks on Transplanting Trees.

No work is more carelessly or heedlessly performed, by individuals in general, than planting trees. Few persons seem to be aware that a tree is a living object. To expect success, therefore, in transplanting them, some care must be taken in performing the operation. The following brief rules may be some guide to those who have not had much experience in setting out trees:

1st. Never plant a tree unless the ground has been previously well pulverized and broken fine. To plant trees in holes, as too many persons do, is almost fatal to their future growth.

2nd. Deep planting is one of the greatest errors in this country, and more particularly in those soils in this vicinity; and the probability is, that more trees die from this cause than any other; if they thrive for a year or two, they soon languish and die, apparently without any cause. In cold, clayey soils, this is frequently the case. Avoid by all means this error in this vicinity. The surface roots should never be more than two inches below the soil.

3rd. When the tree is all ready for setting out, commence planting by taking out the earth to the depth of a foot or more, and of a width to admit the roots easily without bending or breaking. If the soil is naturally very poor, some good rich compost is necessary to fill in among the roots with the earth.

4th. Before planting prune off all bruised or decayed portions of the roots, shorten such as are too long; if the roots are thick and matted, they should be thinned out. Avoid cutting or injuring any of the small fibres, for those are indispensably necessary in the first stage of its growth.

5th. The most important rule to be observed in setting out trees, and one that should never be overlooked, is to fill the earth firmly around and among the roots, so that no hollows or crevices may remain. To perform this operation successfully, the earth and compost should be moderately dry; the soil should be thrown in sparingly, and not in too large quantities at once, so as to give the planter sufficient time to arrange the soil among the fibrous roots. Avoid jerking the tree up and down—give it a few taps at the bottom with your hand; a pail or two of water may be given to each tree, by a water-pot, which as soon as it is settled among the roots, should be earthed over to avoid evaporation. If the trees are crooked, they should be carefully staked, and they will soon grow straight.

6th. Do not neglect the trees when they are set out. Keep the ground continually

loose around them; see that no insect attacks them; look after the growth of the wood, and commence with summer pruning in July, when all very rapid growing shoots should be shortened; in each winter pruning cut out all unnecessary wood, and give the tree a washing with a solution of whale oil, soap, and potash.

Strict attention to these rules will amply repay the cultivator for his labours—while without this, no success can be expected.—*Bangor Courier.*

Agricultural Exhibition.

Premiums offered by the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, for the Exhibition, to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th of September and 1st of October, 1846.

HORSES.

For the best thorough-bred stud-horse, $10.
For the next best do., do. $5.
For the best stud-horse adapted to the field or road, $8.
For the next best do. do. $4.
For the best thorough-bred brood mare, $8.
For the next best do. do. $4.
For the best mare adapted to the field and road, $8.
For the next best do. do. $4.
For the best horse colt between two and four years old, $6.
For the next best do. do. $3.
For the best filly or mare colt, between two and four years old, $6.
For the next best do. do. $3.
For the best horse colt between one and two years old, $4.
For the next best do. do. $2.
For the best filly or mare colt, between one and two years old, $4.
For the next best do. do. $2.

NEAT CATTLE OVER TWO YEARS OLD.

For the best Durham bull over three years old, $10.
For the next best do. do. $5.
For the best Durham bull between two and three years old, $8.
For the next best do. do. $4.
For the best bull of Devon blood, $8.
For the next best do. do. $4.
For the best Ayrshire bull, $8.
For the next best do. $4.
For the best Alderney bull, $8.
For the next best do. $4.
For the best Durham cow over four years old, $8.
For the next best do. do. $4.
For the best Durham cow between two and four years old, $8.
For the next best do. do. $4.
For the best Durham heifer between two and three years old, $6.
For the next best do. do. $3.
For the best heifer of mixed breed, between two and three years old, $4.
For the next best do. do. $2.
For the best heifer of native breed, $4.
For the next best do. do. $2.
For the best cow of Devon blood, $6.
For the next best do. $3.
For the best Ayrshire cow, $6.
For the next best do. $3.
For the best Alderney cow, $6.
For the next best do. $3.
For the best cow of mixed blood, $4.
For the next best do. $2.
For the best cow of native breed, $4.
For the next best do. do. $2.
For the best yoke of working oxen, reference being had to their performance, $10.
For the second best do. do. $6.
For the third best do. do. $4.
For the best fat ox or steer, $6.
For the next best do. $3.
For the best fat heifer over three years old, $4.
For the next best do. do. $2.

NEAT CATTLE UNDER TWO YEARS OLD.

For the best Durham bull between one and two years old, $6.
For the next best do. do. $3
For the best Devon bull, do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best Ayrshire bull, do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best Alderney bull, do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best bull calf between four months and one year old, of each of the above breeds, $2.
For the best Durham heifer between one and two years old, $6.
For the next best do. do. $3
For the best Devon do. do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best Ayrshire do. do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best Alderney do. do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best heifer of mixed breed, do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best heifer of native breed, do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2

For the best heifer calf of each of the above breeds, between four months and one year old, $2.

SHEEP.

For the best Bakewell or Leicester buck over one year old, $4.
For the next best do. do. $2
For the best do. under one year old, 2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the four best ewes over one year old, 4
For the four next best do. do. 2
For the four best ewe lambs between four and twelve months old, $2.
For the next best do. do. $1
For the best Southdown buck over one year old, $4.
For the next best do. do. $2
For the best do. under one year old, $2.
For the next best do. do. $1
For the four best do. ewes over one year old, $4
For the next best do. do. $2
For the four best ewe lambs between four and twelve months old, $2.
For the next best do. do. $1
For the best Merino buck over one year old, $4
For the next best do. do. $2
For the four best do. ewes, do. 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best Cotswold buck over one year old, $4
For the next best do. do. $2
For the best do. under one year old, 2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the two best do. ewes over one year old, $4.
For the two next best do. do. $2
For the two best do. ewe lambs, between four and twelve months old, $2.
For the two next best do. do. $1
For the best improved buck of mixed breed, over one year old, $2
For the next best do. do. $1
For the four best ewes, do. 2
For the four next best do. do. 1

HOGS.

For the best boar of any breed, over one year old, $4
For the next best do. do. $2
For the best boar over six months and under one year, $4
For the next best do. do. $2
For the best sow do. over one year old, 4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best sow do. over six months and under one year old, $4
For the next best do. do. 2
For the best boar pig between two and six months old, $3
For the next best do. do. $2
For the best sow pig do. 3
For the next best do. do. 2
For the five best pigs under two months old, $4.
For the five next best do. do. $2

POULTRY.

For the best pair of Jersey Blue fowls, $2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best pair of any other improved breed, $2
For the next best do. do. $1
For the best pair of capons, 2
For the next best do. 1
For the best pair of turkeys, 2
For the next best do. 1
For the best pair of geese, 2
For the next best do. 1
For the best pair of ducks, 2
For the next best do. 1

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

For the best plough, the merits thereof to be decided by trial, $10
For the next best do. 5
For the best drill machine, 4
For the next best do. 2
For the best straw or hay cutter, 4
For the next best do. 2
For the best horse power straw or stalk cutter, $6
For the next best do. do. 3
For the best corn sheller, 4
For the next best do. 2
For the best wheat fan, 4
For the next best do. 2
For the best display of agricultural implements, $10
For the next best do. 5

Suitable premiums will be given for any improved implement of merit, not included in the above.

The ploughs intended for trial, must be at the Exhibition during the whole time. Premiums will be awarded to the best ploughman:

For the best, $5
For the next best, 3

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

For the best five pounds of fresh butter, a silver butter knife, value $5
For the second best do. do. 3
For the third best do. do. 2
For the best firkin or jar of salted or preserved butter, not less than 20 pounds, a silver butter knife, value $5
For the next best do. do. 3
For the best sample bushel of red wheat, 3

For the next best sample bushel of red wheat, $1
For the best do. white wheat, 3
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best sample bushel of rye, 2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best sample bushel of flint corn, 2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best do. gourd seed corn, 2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best do. mixed corn, 2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best sample bushel of oats, 2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best sample bushel of potatoes, 2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best bushel of sweet potatoes raised in this State, $2
For the next best do. do. 1
For the best display of agricultural produce generally, $8
For the next best do. do. 6

A suitable premium will be given for any new variety of grain of improved quality.

A statement of the mode and manner of making and preserving the different kinds of butter, will be required of competitors. The preserved or salted butter must have been put up at least two months previous to the Exhibition.

A PLOUGHING MATCH,

For the trial of ploughs and ploughing, will take place on the second day of the Exhibition, 1st of October, at nine o'clock.

☞ Stock entered for the foregoing premiums cannot compete for others.

No animal that has previously taken the Society's first premium, will be allowed to compete in the same class.

Ample evidence will be required as regards the pedigree, age, and character, of all stock entered for premium.

Premiums will be paid in money or Agricultural publications, as may be preferred. All premiums uncalled for within six months from the time of holding the Exhibition, will be considered as donations to the Society.

The Judges are authorized to withhold premiums where the object is not entitled to distinction; and where but one of a class is exhibited, they will award such premium as they think it merits. Those persons who intend bringing animals for competition, must inform the Committee of Arrangement before ten o'clock on the first day of the Exhibition.

Premiums to be confined to animals owned exclusively in this State, except where assurance is given that they will be allowed to remain here at least nine months.

All stock, &c., contributed, must remain on the ground during the two days of Exhibition.

A. S. Roberts,
Kenderton Smith,
Isaac W. Roberts,
Henry Chorley,
George Blight,
Asher Moore,
Aaron Clement,
Committee of Arrangement.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Destructive Insects.

Mr. Editor,—Some very destructive caterpillars have made their appearance in this region within a few years, and it will be well for growers of fruit to turn their attention, at an early day, to their trees.

Some of these were taken the first of September last,—length from one to one and a half inches; head black, body striped lengthwise, with six yellow and six brown; central stripe above, brown; sparsely covered with stiff hairs or bristles, most of which were at each extremity—growth rapid from a week to ten days, when they underwent a change;—head double its former size—having been less in thickness than the body, and now greater—brown stripes dark, length of body diminished and more densely covered with hair; growth more rapid; amount of leaves devoured immense, in proportion to size of larva. Continued to feed voraciously for two weeks, when they burrowed in the earth, and in three or four days had assumed the pupa form. So soon as the imago emerges—if you deem any part of this worthy of publication—you may hear more.

These feed only at night—as do the larva of most lepidopteræ—and destroy the entire leaf, so that wherever we see a branch divested of its leaves, we may know some attention is necessary. During the day they remain in groups on a small branch or petiole, attached by their central part, both extremities being elevated. This is very peculiar, and enables them to occupy much less space on the branch. This is the proper time to collect and destroy them. If not attended to, they may in a few years become as numerous as they, or similar ones, were in Massachusetts, and subsequently in Illinois, leaving large orchards entirely leafless.

The 7th of last September, for the first, I discovered a different species from the preceding. These larvæ were striped, yellow and brown, as the first, but had an enlarged red ring—the third from the head—from which sprung four black spines, longer than

similar spines from the other rings. Their mode of holding, while at rest, is also different. These hold with all their feet on the flat surface of a leaf. After eating quite as voraciously as the preceding species, until the 24th of September, they spun silken cocoons between the leaves given for food, and are yet nymphæ. I have, however, seen some of these commencing their depredations in a neighbouring orchard this season. These do not confine their ravages to the apple, but with me, have attacked the cherry and quince. J. K. E.

Paradise, Pa., July 1st, 1846.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Moorestown, Burlington County Agricultural Society.

This Society was organized on the 26th of Second month last, by the adoption of a Preamble, Constitution, &c. It has forty-nine members. The following were chosen officers for the present year, viz. Levi Borton, *President;* Allen Jones, Edward French, William Matlack, Israel Lippincott and William Lippincott, *Vice Presidents;* William Parry, *Recording Secretary;* Chalkley Gillingham, *Corresponding Secretary;* Samuel R. Lippincott, *Treasurer;* Silas Walton, Thomas B. Evans, Isaac Collins and John Perkins, *additional members of the Executive Committee.*

The stated meetings of the society are held on the first Third-day in the Third, Sixth, Ninth and Twelfth months, at two o'clock, P. M., in the Town-House at Moorestown.

The Executive Committee, which consists of all the officers above named, with the four additional members, meets on the first Fifth-day in every month, except the months in which the stated meetings are held, and the other members have the right to meet with them.

At the stated meeting held on the 2nd inst., Dr. Joseph Parrish, of Burlington, delivered an address, very appropriate to the occasion, and it was, on motion resolved, that a vote of thanks be presented to him for the kind and able manner in which he has discharged the task, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication.*

Resolved that the Executive Committee be instructed to procure a suitable place for an Agricultural Library, for the use of the members of this Society, and that they be authorized to purchase, or otherwise procure such works connected with the subject of agriculture, as in their judgment will advance the objects of this society.

Resolved that an extract from the minutes of this society, be published with the address, in the Farmers' Cabinet.

William Parry, *Rec. Sec'y.*

Moorestown, N. J., Sixth mo. 8th, 1846.

* This Address appeared in our last number.—Ed.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Slitting Fruit Trees.

Mr. Editor,—In a late number of an agricultural paper is an article ridiculing the practice, time-honoured as it is, of slitting the bark of fruit trees to render them healthy and fruitful. The writer remarks that he would as soon think of slitting the skin on a boy's legs to make them grow, as the bark of trees.

This comparison is more witty than just. If the circulation of blood was confined to the inner coat of the skin, and if the interior skin kept accumulating by successive annual layers until it reached the thickness and solidity of sole-leather, then such a practice might be very useful.

It is true, I believe, that the outer bark of most fruit trees runs with its greatest strength directly around the tree; and thus when a number of dry and hardened coverings have accumulated, forms a powerful obstacle to the expansion of the interior wood, and presses so hard upon the circulating portion of the bark as greatly to obstruct the movement of the juices.

Such, I say, may be the case, when these annual coverings have accumulated from any cause, and to satisfy ourselves on this point, we have only to observe the effect of the yarn, or slip of bark, or matting, with which the limb of a tree is bandaged or tied, in the process of budding, which, if not timely removed, will, by the expansion of the wood, come to press so hard upon the interior bark as to ruin all. This effect is produced, we see, by a simple woollen yarn. How much more powerful must be a series of coatings of bark wrapped around just like this bandage. It is said that nature provides for the removal of these outer coatings as rapidly as is necessary. So she does, in general, but not in particular diseased states of the tree. It might as well be said that nature provides for everything necessary to the growth and perfection of trees, fruits and vegetables; but we find on the contrary, that they require our constant care and supervision. Their diseases must be looked to and remedied, as in the human subject, or both will soon be beyond the "reach of surgery"—and this is one of those

diseases. The voice of ages has pronounced it such, and slitting is the remedy which has been applied. And I would here assure the writer before alluded to, that where he finds a custom sanctioned by universal practice, he may be sure there is something in it.

Others may apply a different cure for this disease, and sometimes unconsciously. Whitewash applied to the bark of trees, acts, there is no doubt, more beneficially, by softening and removing the superfluous integument, than in any other way.

Where the direction of the greatest strength of the bark runs vertically, as in most forest trees, this disease called *hide-bound*, is not likely to occur; as the bark readily splits into seams, and thus accommodates the increased size of the wood until it is finally loosened and falls off. In the sweet-gum, the obstinacy of the bark in the latter particular, is curiously exemplified. I have one growing, which is not thicker in the wood than my finger, but the bark is at least four inches in circumference, and channelled with deep seams extending in nearly to the wood, and passing up spirally like the thread of a very quick screw.

Now as to my experience in the slitting of the bark of fruit trees. On coming to the place where I now reside, four years since, I found several plum and quince trees which were but cumberers of the ground, as they produced no fruit to glad the eye or the taste. They had received all the ordinary attention of pruning, digging, &c. From the appearance of the trees I was induced to try slitting at once; which was performed freely on the branches as high as I could conveniently reach, to the ground—say three or four incisions to the tree. These incisions are now filled with one inch wide, each, of new bark. This, with the further ordinary treatment, has brought the trees into full bearing, though in the case of the plums, unfortunately the depredations of the curculio have hitherto prevented any of the fruit from reaching maturity. This experiment in slitting, has satisfied me of its utility. While writing, I will say that I have this year, however, the prospect of enjoying some of the fruits of my labours; as by removing one of the largest plum trees from the garden to ground to which the poultry has free access, the young fruit has been less molested, and I expect in another year will entirely escape; as when the fruit falls, the grub is industriously sought and plucked out by its natural enemy, the feathered tribe —in this case the poultry.

I intend to remove the balance of the plum trees from the garden next spring. The tree above spoken of as promising fruit, which is from fifteen to eighteen inches in circumference, was removed in the fore part of April. This was planted in the following manner. I have planted some two hundred fruit and forest trees this spring in this way, and they bid fair to thrive, almost without an exception. Trees obtained from the woods, such as oak, ash, beech, &c., are admitted by all to be hard to transplant successfully, as the roots are large runners, with but few fibres, which are the really important part. The beeches thus obtained have made from eight to ten inches of new wood on the main shoots already, though they have been put out less than two months. To many of your readers it may not be original, though to others I apprehend it will be new. It was communicated by a distinguished manufacturer on the Brandywine, who is as well skilled in the art and mystery of rural life, as in his fabrics; and whose place, I am told—though I have not seen it—might almost compare with "Hagley," which Lyttleton, "by his taste in rural ornament, rendered the most attractive residence in England." He confesses to having obtained the secret from his lady—so that whatever credit there is in the matter belongs to the fair part of the creation. It was communicated as being adapted particularly to evergreens, but I have extended it to all, with the greatest apparent success. It is simply this:—Dig a hole sufficiently wide and deep—but not too deep—to receive the roots of the tree; put back of the top soil, sufficient to fill the hole half full. Then add sufficient water—not well or spring water, if it can be avoided—to reduce this into a thin mortar or mud; incorporate well, and place the tree in its position, working it up and down till it reaches the bottom of the hole; now complete the filling, and tread down gently. The tree will at first appear loose and slightly supported, but in twenty-four hours, or as soon as the superfluous water has passed away, the tree will appear to have grown there; and if not large will do very well without support. To protect the tree against the droughts of midsummer, it is my practice to raise a mound of earth from four to eight inches around the body, to be removed after the first season. It should be dishing towards the tree.

To persons who propose transplanting trees of considerable size next fall or spring, I would recommend to them to go at once and dig a ditch around the tree at a distance that will leave sufficient root, carrying the ditch below all the roots, and cutting them off in its progress down, and again refilling the ditch. The remaining roots will imme-

diately send out fibres which will greatly assist the tree when it comes to be removed. A little red paint for the bruises and wounds of trees, I find to answer well.

Yours truly, P.

Newcastle Co., Del., June 1st, 1846.

Crops in Alabama.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet:—

Dear Sir,—I have been highly pleased, and I trust benefited, by the perusal of your excellent agricultural journal, as every cultivator of the soil must be, who takes a deep interest in his honourable and useful avocation. I was in your city last summer while on my first visit North;—I was born and raised in the South, and never before travelled North, although upwards of fifty years of age. I endeavoured as far as it was in my power to make my trip an agricultural one; still a travel through the States without acquaintances, affords but little opportunity of observing much of the agricultural operations going on. I however saw enough not only of the high state of improvement in many sections through which I passed, but of the deep and abiding interest taken by the farmers in many sections I travelled through, to stimulate me to increased attention to my farm. I am at this time deeply engaged in manure making. I am preparing a compost of blue marl and pine straw, that is, the leaf of the long leaved pine. I have set in to prepare fifty thousand bushels of compost manure, by hauling into a lot where my cattle are penned each night on the straw and marl. I prepared last summer and fall, some forty thousand bushels of the above compost; I spread it over my land at the rate of eight hundred bushels to the acre; the growing crop on the land manured with the compost above, is at this time twice as large as the crop on land equally good, that I did not have manure enough to spread over. The land I am manuring at the above rate, was nine years past, a perfect forest; the present crop is the ninth crop grown on the land I now own, as I settled this place in the woods in 1839.

I am pleased to have it in my power to inform your readers, that the prospects of the farmer are truly flattering at this time through this entire region of country; we have been blessed with fine seasons; the lands being generally fresh and good, the corn and cotton look well, and in our southern climate much of the corn may now be said to be made: it is, however, too early to determine as to the cotton crop, as so much depends on the months of July, August and September, as to the extent of our great southern staple.

I have a great desire to improve my stock of cattle by a cross with some of the best blooded cattle I can find. Will you so oblige me as to inform me through the columns of the Cabinet, at what price I can obtain a good blooded young bull, or a cow with a young bull calf, to be brought out to Apalachicola in the month of October or November, with the name of the owner and the cost to Apalachicola. I presume an animal can be sent out from Philadelphia as cheap as from New York.

Alexander McDonald.

Eufaula, Ala., 28th June, 1846.

Settlements in Virginia.

Our readers have noticed, and perhaps with some interest, what has been said latterly in the Cabinet, respecting the prospects in Virginia of new settlers from the North. A few weeks ago the editor received a letter on this subject from his highly valued friend, Edmund Ruffin, *of Old Church, Hanover Co., Va.*, long known as the indefatigable and efficient conductor of the *Farmers' Register*, and now actively and successfully engaged in the improvement of his own estates in Virginia, and stimulating his fellow citizens to similar exertions. He will, we trust, excuse the liberty taken with his letter. The extracts given below, bear so fully on the subject, and are withal so practical, that we could not feel willing to withhold them from our readers.

After referring to a visit of observation paid this spring by some New Jersey farmers to Petersburg, &c., he says:

"I have long been anxious, both in reference to public and private interests, for such *colonization* of our comparatively *waste country*, by the immigration and settlement of a number of the industrious and frugal farmers of the more Northern States. I have felt satisfied that the low price of lands here, added to the great facilities for their high improvement, offered to such men profits very far exceeding such as they can make in their present locations; and perhaps greater advantages—taking in view all results—than even removal to the cheapest or richest lands of the new Western settlements.

"Of what your countrymen themselves saw and highly approved for purchase and settlement, I need not say anything. Their approval, in my opinion, was properly bestowed. But I wish them and others to learn—and to ascertain fully by subsequent examination—that there are other places and plenty of space offering still greater advantages in cheapness of land, and facilities for improvement by marl—though fur-

ther from market and from the supply of town-made putrescent manures, both of which I know were important advantages in the eyes of the gentlemen alluded to. So great, so surpassing all others, are the advantages of having easy access to our marl beds, that I deem them beyond all other advantages without them. And I would strongly urge upon all persons who propose to settle in Virginia, to seek for *marling* lands. Some such lands are near Petersburg, and much more in the adjoining county of Prince George, twelve to eighteen miles from Petersburg, and in other parts of the State. But I refer especially to that neighbourhood because I know it best, it being the place of my birth, long residence, and most extensive and profitable operations in marling and cultivation.

"The prices of such lands within four to seven miles of ship navigation, and 12 to 18 from Petersburg, vary from $10 to less than $2 the acre, according to value or demand. Such lands are mostly poor, but easily and highly improvable by calcareous marl; and have plenty of that most valuable of manures, either under them, or at most within two or three miles, and *now* to be dug *gratis*. These lands too are healthy. They are the *ridge* or higher lands between the rivers, on smaller water courses. The marl can usually be applied for less than $5 the acre, and which will usually add 50 per cent. to the next succeeding crop; and with proper management gives a four-fold increase within ten or fifteen years, even without the addition of other manures.

"The neighbourhood of my present residence also offers great, though different advantages. Hereabout, the ridge lands are more sandy and poorer than those of Prince George, above referred to, *and still more like much land that I saw in New Jersey;* and the marl *under them* is poor and scarce. But along the Pamunkey river, within three to five miles, there is abundance of both green sand and calcareous marl, much of of which, if in New Jersey—as your green sand or "marl" does—would sell at a high price, and there be carted twice as far as it need be here, where it is to be obtained for merely the digging. The access to this peculiarly enriching marl, gives a peculiar *intrinsic* value, in my opinion, to all lands near to it. But that has scarcely affected their prices. They however sell higher than better lands elsewhere, because of the vicinity to Richmond—15 to 20 miles—which offers a market for all surplus produce of the farms.

"If fifty or one hundred *suitable* individuals from New Jersey were to form settlements here, their industry, frugal habits, and labour for improvement and cultivation of lands, with the means offered them in cheap land and cheap marl, and other manure, would soon quadruple the productive power of their farms; and such population might serve as much to benefit the country and people around them, as their own fortunes."

The letter goes on to give further details, which perhaps, would too much extend our article. Our correspondent states that he would take pleasure in aiding any in their inquiries, who may be desirous to purchase and settle in his vicinity. He also names his son, Edmund Ruffin, Jr., in Prince George County, and Laurens Wallazz, in the same neighbourhood, as among those who will give information when required.—Ed.

Premiums of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

The following will be awarded at the stated meeting on the 18th of next month. Those for this month were given in our last number.

Peaches—For the best, half a peck to be exhibited, $3.
For the next best, do. do. $2.
Pears—For the best, do. do. $3.
For the next best, do. do. $2.
Plums—For the best, two dozen to be exhibited, $2.
For the next best, do. do. $1.
Figs—For the best, one dozen to be exhibited, $2.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Soy.

Dr. Emerson of this city has received from a friend in China, some seeds of the *Dolichos Soja*, a plant from which the Chinese and Japanese prepare their celebrated dark coloured sauce called soy, an article largely consumed by all ranks of people in those populous countries. The consumption is rather limited in the United States, but in England about 1000 gallons are imported annually, in addition to a large quantity counterfeited at home. It is excellent on fish and with soups. The flavour is peculiar, but when once acquired, the taste like that for olives and many other things, becomes very strong. By the Chinese and Japanese, *soy* is not only esteemed for its agreeable but for its wholesome qualities. The notion of its being made for cock-roaches is of course a vulgar error.

The plant is described as having an upright and hairy stem, erect bunches of flowers, and pendulous, bristly pods, each containing about two seeds or beans.

The process of preparing *soy* consists in boiling the seeds until they become soft, and mixing with them an equal weight of wheat or barley meal, coarsely ground. This mixture is fermented, and, a certain proportion of salt and water being added, the whole is allowed to stand for two or three months, care being taken to stir it daily; at the end of this time it is ready for use, and may be kept in jars or bottles.

The best *soy* comes from Japan. When genuine, it is of an agreeable flavour, neither too salt nor too sweet, of a thick consistence, and clear brown colour. When shaken in a glass, it should leave a coat on the surface of a bright yellowish brown colour.

A somewhat similar sauce may be prepared in the following manner: boil a gallon of the seeds of the *Dolichos Soja* till they are soft—and even peas and kidney-beans may be used as a substitute—add an equal quantity of bruised wheat; put this mixture into a warm place for twenty four hours, and add a gallon of common salt and two gallons of water. Shake the whole together, and put it into a stone jar, where it should remain closed up for two or three months, during which time it should frequently be shaken. After this time the liquor should be pressed out through a seive, and will constitute the *soy*. An inferior kind may be procured by putting salt water upon what remains, and treating it in the same manner.

The seeds or soy-beans are also employed in China and Japan in various ways as food. They are made into a kind of jelly or curd, which is esteemed very nutricious and is rendered palatable by seasoning of different kinds. In Japan, they are put into soups, and are the most common dish of the country, being frequently eaten three times a day. E.

Philadelphia, June 26th, 1846.

Dr. E. has left with us a few of the *Soy* beans, which will be distributed among those who may incline to plant them. As the season is late, it is doubtful whether they would mature this summer; a few however might be tried, and others left to plant next spring.—Ed.

The Lady's Country Companion.

Mrs. Loudon is following the example of industry, so ably set by her late husband; and in addition to her numerous works on gardening, in its varied forms, we have now a thorough domestic volume, including advice and instruction in all the duties and recreations of a country gentlewoman. These are arranged in a series of letters to a young friend about to be married, when they commence; and of these letters, many are easy, natural, unstudied, and interesting. The first is a mere introduction, in which the authoress, like a good counsel, states the case, which is simply, that, as her friend is going to be married to a country gentleman, she ought to learn how to enjoy a country life, and that the authoress is about to teach her; Mrs. Loudon exemplifying in her own person and books—a conclusion to which most rational men have arrived—that the best instructor of females is woman; and especially when the instructions are founded on what the teacher has experienced. And well does the authoress prepare her pupil—no ideal person—for the reception of her lessons by mentioning the difficulties encountered in early life, under somewhat similar circumstances: "I was then," says Mrs. Loudon, "young and thoughtless; I had no sisters; and having like you, been brought up in a town, I had no ideas of the country but as a place where eggs, cream, and fruit were in abundance: where I might keep as much poultry as I liked; and where there were shady lanes and green fields abounding with pretty flowers.

"The place we went to live at had a good house, commanding a splendid view; an excellent garden; three fish-ponds; and about thirty acres of grass land, which enabled us to keep cows and horses, without troubling us with any of the laborious duties of cultivating arable land.

"At first I was enchanted with the change; I was never tired of feeding my poultry, watching the dairy-maid, and managing the fruit and flowers; but alas! I soon found that there are few roses without thorns. My first trouble, was three gentlemen calling on us one day unexpectedly, and my father asking them to stay dinner. We were seven miles from the town where we had formerly lived; and though there was a small town within two miles of us, the road was bad, and the miles very long ones; while the town itself, when we reached it, was one of those provoking places, the shopkeepers of which never have what is wanted, though they alway say they had abundance of the required article the week before, and believe they shall have it again the week after. I need not enter into details of my troubles in preparing for this well-remembered dinner. Meat was out of the question; and though I was enabled, by having recourse to the poultry-yard and the dovecot, to give my father's friends enough to eat, no one but a young housekeeper in a similar situation can have any idea of what I suffered. The lesson, however, was not lost upon me; and you may easily imagine that ever afterwards I took care to have a

cooked piece of hung beef, or ham, or some similar substantial article of food in the house, that I might be provided for a similar occurrence.

"The recollection of what I underwent while buying my experience, makes me anxious to spare you, my dear Annie, the pain of a similar ordeal; particularly as it is more disagreeable for a young newly married woman to feel in housekeeping difficulties, than a single one; as it makes you fear your husband had a higher opinion of you than you deserve. In your situation the difficulty is increased by your husband not having lived at the Manor House since the death of his parents, when he was only ten years old; so that he can have no idea of the petty troubles you will be exposed to. Under these circumstances I will do my best to clear the path that lies before yon, and to teach you how to enjoy rationally a country life."—*Horticultural Magazine.*

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Diseases of Fruit Trees.

Mr. Editor,—I am gratified to find that fruit raisers throughout the country, are realizing the importance of the alkalies in preventing many of the diseases of fruit trees. Almost every newspaper that I pick up, contains a narrative of the experience of some fortunate horticulturist, who has applied the alkalies—lime, potash, soda, or magnesia with a happy effect.

Many however, use the remedy in such a costly form, that I am inclined to enter my protest against it. There is no need of using soda in the form of salt or potash, as it is in soap or ley, or lime in whitewash. I say there is no necessity for using these alkalies in these forms. They may be applied in the form of ashes or lime. Nor is there a necessity, in most cases, of applying them with a brush to the body of the tree. If the tree be a valuable one, and very much diseased, or infested with insects, such extra labor may be warranted, but in the majority of instances, lime and ashes—even anthracite or bituminous coal ashes, scattered on the ground or slightly dug or ploughed in, for a short distance around the tree, will be just as effective in keeping the tree free from insects and disease, as the more laborious and expensive process of scrubbing the tree with brine or ley, or whitewashing it with a solution of lime. I do not approve of the use of such substances as common salt, guano, nitrate of potash and other highly concentrated manures, when the more common and cheap forms of alkaline substances will answer the same purpose just as well. It is a waste of means, which might be profitably applied in other ways. Besides, lime and ashes are more safe applications than salt, guano, &c., there is not so much danger of killing the trees by an excessive use of them.

I attribute many of the diseases of fruit trees to the same cause which produces the "potatoe rot," viz. *a superabundance of carbonic acid.* This extra carbonic acid gives to the sap of the tree that peculiar quality which renders it the proper nutriment of the cryptogamic* plants, the seeds of some of those cryptogamic plants are present and finding their proper nutriment, they take root and grow, producing the mossy appearance on the trunks and branches. If an alkaline substance be given to the tree, the sap takes it up and it is thereby rendered fit for the tree, and unfit for the cryptogamic plant, and the consequence is the cryptogamic plant dies, and the trunk of the tree becomes clean, and the tree itself assumes a healthy and vigorous appearance. When the sap is unhealthy it becomes by means of the saccharine fermentation, perhaps, sweet and pleasant to the taste; it is then the favorite food of many insects, and they are not slow in availing themselves of it—but when the alkali gets into the sap, it becomes insipid, and the insects turn from it with disgust; while the tree, which before was sickly, now assumes the lively and fresh appearance of health.

I may be mistaken in these views, Mr. Editor, but I think I am not—at all events, there is abundant evidence in in our newspapers that alkaline manures have been effective in ridding the trees of disease and insects. I could quote numerous testimonials, but perhaps it is unnecessary. Yours, &c.,

Chemico.

Wilksbarre, June 8th, 1846.

End of Human Glory.—A late English paper says there arrived not long since at Hull, a Dutch vessel navigated by a man, his wife and four daughters, loaded with bones gathered from the battle field of Napoleon, to be sold by the bushel, and used for manuring turnips.

Hen Houses.—Keep them clean and well white washed. Supply the nests frequently with fresh hay, straw or leaves. This will prevent the accumulation of lice, those great pests to poultry.

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* The principal orders of plants of the cryptogamic class are *ferns, mosses, hepatica, lichens, algæ* and *fungi.*

Jerusalem Artichoke.—This root is cultivated precisely like the potatoe, in hills or drills. At the South and West it is fed off by turning swine on to the fields, who root them up and consume them at pleasure. A winter's supply of food is thus easily provided for their hogs, and the crop fed off the land greatly enriches it. The artichoke is considered one of the best of fertilizers, as it derives a large amount of its carbon and nitrogen from the atmosphere. They should be cultivated extensively in well grown orchards, as they do well in the shade, pulverize the soil without exhausting it, and leave it in a good condition for growing trees. After the fruit is gathered, turn the swine on to feed them off. Rooting them up is nearly as beneficial as ploughing; at the same time the swine destroy nearly all the insects harbouring round the trees, and the manure they leave is equivalent to a good top-dressing. The artichoke is a delicious table vegetable, pared and cut up raw in thin slices with vinegar added to it. Many are also fond of it boiled and mashed like turnips. Frost does not injure the roots, and after the first planting they propagate themselves. The roots of the Jerusalem are ill-shaped, rather large, and of a pure white colour. The kind of artichoke bearing a root with pink streaks or spots on the flesh part, is not as good as the Jerusalem. They grow well in the poorest land.—*American Agriculturist.*

THE FARMERS' CABINET,

AND

AMERICAN HERD-BOOK.

Philadelphia, Seventh Month, 1846.

From our exchange papers, and from numerous letters, we learn that, as we would naturally anticipate, through our vast country, the grain harvest has produced varied results, in various districts. While in some, the wheat crop has been heavy, and every way satisfactory, in others, the hopes of the farmer have been disappointed by the extensive ravages of the hessian fly. The remarkably dull and wet spell of weather during the first week in this month, operated in our district of country, very inconveniently. Where the wheat was cut, and not secured, we suppose considerable injury was sustained—in some neighbourhoods where it was heavy and not cut, it was much beaten down,—had to be cut with the naked scythe, and was found to have sprouted in the ear. The country, however, through the good Providence of the great Husbandman, who faileth not to send the rain in his season—summer and winter—seed time and harvest, will yield an abundance of the good things necessary for our daily wants. The crops of grass, are almost without exception, remarkably fine. Flour remains low: say $4 to $4.50—corn 55 to 60 cents.

In little excursions made a fortnight ago to Haddonfield and Woodbury, we were delighted with the great luxuriance of vegetation of every kind. The wheat and grass would vie with those in our very best farming districts. The improvements made in those neighbourhoods within the last twenty years, would astonish our fathers, as indeed they do ourselves. An observant friend remarked recently, that there was now more produce gathered within a circle of one mile radius from Haddonfield, than there was a quarter of a century ago, within one of five miles from the same place. This is certainly gratifying evidence of great progress, and of a disposition in farmers to improve their condition.

The *New England Farmer* is discontinued. We regret that we no longer find that valuable paper among our exchanges; but all things here have their day, and come to an end. It has lived longer than most of its contemporaries. It was established in 1822 by Thomas G. Fessenden, who continued its Editor, until his death in 1837. The cause of agriculture has been ably advocated, and its interests promoted by this paper, and its editor, Joseph Breck, may enjoy the satisfaction of believing that it did not "outlive its usefulness."

"Patience" will find her enquiries pretty fully answered by *Chemico*, in his communication on page 368. Her letter was forwarded to him, and he was particularly gratified by the estimation in which she is pleased to hold his essays that have appeared in the Cabinet. The Editor also partakes of this gratification, and promises to be assiduous in his endeavours to furnish to her and others "much delightful reading connected with the improvements in agriculture—the management of poultry—dairies, and by no means forgetting flowers."

The New York State Agricultural Exhibition and Fair, will be held at Auburn on the 15th, 16th and 17th of the Ninth month next. A long and liberal list of premiums is offered, not very materially differing from those of late years. We have not room for it in detail. A ploughing match will take place on the first day of the show. New York always makes these occasions of great excitement and interest.

The sixth number of *Colman's Agricultural Tour*, has been received and forwarded to our subscribers. Many highly interesting statements are given on the subject of draining, showing an expenditure of capital and labour that would be frightful to our farmers; and nothing could justify it in Great Britain, but the high value of land, and lowness of wages.

Subscribers can have their volume of Colman's Tour, and any other books well bound at this office.

The number for this month—the first of vol. 2, of the Farmers' Library, is on our table. Its contents are as usual, varied and valuable. We wish its enterprising publishers and able editor every success. The fore part of the number commences the publication of *Stephens' Book of the Farm.*

TURNIP SEEDS,

Of my own raising, from selected Roots,

(Crop 1846,)

☞ WARRANTED GENUINE. ☜

Early Dutch, (strap leaved), Red Top, do. do., Large Globe, large Norfolk.

RUTA BAGA,

Dickson's Improved Purple Top,

Also, of crop 1845, Early Stone, Dale's Hybrid, Yellow Aberdeen, Ruta Baga.

☞ Purchasers will profit by obtaining their seeds from the growers themselves, as they only can guaranty their quality.

D. LANDRETH,

Seed and Implement Warehouse,

No. 65 Chesnut street, below Third, North side.

July 10th. 1t.

The quantity of rain which fell in the 6th month, 1846, was a little more than three inches and a quarter..3.30 inches. Rain fell on eighteen days.

Penn. Hospital, 7th mo. 1st.

☞ SHORT ADVERTISEMENTS,

The subject matter of which, may correspond with the agricultural character of this paper, will be inserted at the rate of one dollar for each insertion of ten lines or less; and so in proportion for each additional line. Payment in advance.

Agricultural Implement & Seed Warehouse,

No. 194½ Market Street, Philadelphia.

For sale as above. Cultivators from $3 50 to $5 50 each; Cultivator Ploughs for working among corn, potatoes, roots of every kind, digging potatoes, &c., &c.; Horse Rakes; Centre-Draught Ploughs for 1, 2, 3 or 4 horses; Cutting Boxes in great variety; Corn Shellers; Grain Fans; Grain Cradles of the best make; Scythes, Snaths, Scythe stones, Rifles, Grass Hooks; improved Barrel Churns, Cheese presses,&c., &c. Garden and Flower Seeds of all kinds, for, sale at wholesale and retail, by D. O. PROUTY.

March 15—tf.

SEED STORE,

No. 23 Market Street, Philadelphia.

The subscriber keeps constantly a supply of White and Red Clover, and other grass seeds; fresh Perennial Rye-grass, and Lucerne seed. Field seeds, consisting of choice Spring Wheat, Barley, Potatoe Oats, Northern and other seed-corn. Aso, in season, Fruit and Shade Trees. Garden and Bird seeds generally. Guano in parcels to suit purchasers.

M. S. POWELL.

Philad., Feb., 1846. tf.

COATES' SEED STORE,

OF MORE THAN FORTY YEARS STANDING,

Just received the present year's crop of

TURNIP SEED,

Of the most approved varieties for cattle and table use,

WITH A COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF

GRASS & GARDEN SEEDS,

Of the finest Quality and best Varieties,

JOS. P. H. COATES.

No. 49, Market st., Philada.

July 15th.

PHILADELPHIA

AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE,

No. 291 Market Street, North side, between Seventh and Eighth Streets, Philadelphia.

Thomas Furber has just received from Worcester, Massachusetts, an assortment of Ruggles, Nourse and Mason's improved Eagle, Subsoil and other Ploughs, which have been so much approved by the principal Agricultural Societies in New England the several last years; also Bennett's Cultivators and Stevens' Self-Feeding Hay and Straw Cutter, a late and very valuable improvement in that kind of implement; Grain Cradles, &c.; an assortment of Ruggles, Nourse and Mason's Self-Sharpening Ploughs of the form and model of those above named, are daily expected. T. F. has and will constantly keep a large assortment of Farming Implements, as Fan Mills, Straw and Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Grain Cradles, Scythes, &c., together with Garden Tools of all kinds.

May 15th, 1846. 1 yr.

NEW

Horticultural and Agricultural Ware-house,

84 Chesnut Street below Third, South side.

The subscriber has for the better accommodation of his customers, opened the above ware-house, with a large stock of Garden and Field Seeds, crop of 1845. Implements and Books on Gardening and Farming; he calls the particular attention of farmers to his pure stock of Sweede Turnips, Field Carrots, Beets and Parsnips, Pruning Shears, Saws and Knives.

March 14th, 1846.—1y. R. BUIST.

Agency for the Purchase & Sale of

IMPROVED BREEDS OF CATTLE & SHEEP.

The subscriber takes this method of informing his friends and the public, that he will attend to the purchase and sale of the improved breeds of cattle, sheep, &c., for a reasonable commission. All letters post paid, addressed to him at Philadelphia, will be attended to without delay. AARON CLEMENT.

Jan. 15th, 1846.

We keep on hand at this office, and will supply our friends with Agricultural works generally. Among which are

THE FARMER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA, full-bound in leather;—Price	$3 50
YOUATT ON THE HORSE, with J. S. Skinner's very valuable Additions;	2 00
BRIDGEMAN'S GARDENER'S ASSISTANT;	2 00
THE AMERICAN POULTRY BOOK;	37½
THE FARMER'S LAND MEASURER;	37½
DANA'S MUCK MANUAL;	50
Complete sets of the FARMERS' CABINET, half-bound, 9 vols.	7 50
DOWNING'S Landscape Gardening,	3 50
Downing's Fruits and Fruit Trees of America,	1 50
SKINNER'S Every Man his own Farrier,	50
AMERICAN Poulterer's Companion,	1 25
BOUSSINGAULT'S RURAL ECONOMY,	1 50
FARMERS' & EMIGRANTS' HAND-BOOK,	1 00
MORRELL'S AMERICAN SHEPHERD,	1 00
STABLE ECONOMY,	1 00
BEVAN on the HONEY BEE,	31¼
BUISTS' ROSE MANUAL,	75
THOMAS' FRUIT CULTURIST,	50
SKINNER'S CATTLE & SHEEP DOTOR,	50
AMERICAN FARRIER,	50
THE FARMER'S MINE,	75
HOARE ON THE VINE,	62½
HANNAM'S Economy of Waste Manures,	25
LIEBIG'S AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY,	25
" ANIMAL CHEMISTRY,	25
" FAMILIAR LETTERS,	12½

As well as his larger works on Chemistry and Agriculture.

Subscriptions received for Colman's Agricultural Tour—or single numbers sold.

☞ We are prepared to bind books to order.

GUANO.

Twenty-five tons first quality Ichaboe Guano, in bags or barrels, for sale in lots to suit purchasers, by

S. & J. J. ALLEN & CO.,
No. 7 South Wharves, 2nd Oil Store below Market street, Philadelphia.

October 15th, 1845. tf.

Poudrette.

A valuable manure—of the best quality, prepared in Philadelphia, for sale at the office of the Farmers' Cabinet, No. 50, North Fourth Street, or at the manufactory, near the Penitentiary on Coates' street. Present price, for seven barrels or more, $1 75 per barrel, containing four bushels each. Any number of barrels less than seven, $2 each, or thirty-five cents a bushel. Orders from a distance, enclosing the cash, with cost of porterage, will be promptly attended to, by carefully delivering the barrels on board of such conveyance as may be designated. The results on corn and wheat have been generally very satisfactory. Farmers to the south and in the interior, both of this State and of New Jersey, are invited to try it. It is found excellent for buckwheat and turnips.

JOSIAH TATUM.

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Terms.—One dollar per annum, or five dollars for seven copies—*payable in advance.*

All subscriptions must commence at the *beginning* of a volume. Having lately struck off a new edition of one or two of the former numbers, which had become exhausted, we are now able to supply, to a limited extent, any of the back volumes. They may be had at one dollar each, in numbers, or one dollar twenty-five cents half-bound and lettered.

For six dollars paid in advance, a *complete set* of the work will be furnished in numbers, including the tenth volume. The whole can thus readily be forwarded by mail. For twenty-five cents additional, per volume, the work may be obtained neatly *half-bound and lettered.* Copies returned to the office of publication, will also be bound upon the same terms.

By the decision of the Post Master General, the "Cabinet," is subject only to newspaper postage. To any Post office within thirty miles of Philadelphia, they will go free of charge.

Joseph Rakestraw, Printer.